

# **CAMBOOYA SHIRE COUNCIL**



**Minutes**

**for**

**Special Meeting**

**11 July 2007**



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**CAMBOOYA SHIRE COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, Greenmount  
on Wednesday 11 July 2007, commencing at 9:00am**

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**PRESENT**

Cr CE Taylor (Mayor)  
 Cr MA Williams (Deputy Mayor)  
 Cr FW Mengel  
 Cr MJ MacGinley  
 Cr MR Middleton  
 Cr P Gordon  
 I Stevenson (Chief Executive Officer)

The Mayor opened the meeting at 9:00am.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cr's Moule, Robertson and Schmidt.

**2. CONDUCT OF POLL**

Council is requested to consider the LGAQ's recommendation that Council takes a poll of their electors on whether they reject the Local Government Reform Commission proposals that may make a recommendation that will force either amalgamation or boundary change on the Council.

A copy of this information was provided for Councillors information.

*Resolution Number 01/0707*

Moved by Cr Williams, seconded by Cr Mengel, that Council:

1. Resolves to conduct a Poll of electors in the Shire to determine the community's views on any recommendation of the Local Government Reform Commission, that requires forced amalgamation or boundary change for this Council, on Saturday 18 August 2007;
2. Resolves that the question to be put at the Poll, subject to further advice from the LGAQ, be "Do you support any recommendation of the Local Government Reform Commission that requires forced amalgamation or boundary change for Cambooya Shire Council";
3. Resolves that the cases for and against, subject to further advice from the LGAQ, be

*"The "No" case:*

*Cambooya Shire Council is the sphere of government in Queensland that is closest to its community. As such, it represents and delivers services to its community with the best knowledge of what its community wants, needs and can afford.*

*Local Government, like any organisation, can improve its effectiveness and efficiency in delivering services through adoption of new practices, co-operation with neighbouring councils and establishing new service delivery mechanisms.*

*Local Government is not opposed to reform, but considers that any reform should be supported by affected communities, and should involve exploring all options for improvement, not just amalgamation or boundary change.*

*Studies in Australia and in England have clearly shown that simply amalgamating or radically changing boundaries of Councils does not deliver efficiencies and effectiveness in service delivery, but does impact on our sense of community representation and identity.*

*Forced amalgamation or boundary change, without seeking the views of affected communities is an affront to our democratic society and should be resisted in whatever way is possible.*

*Your support for a “No” vote in this Poll is a clear message to the State Government that any implementation of a Local Government Reform Commission recommendation to force amalgamation or boundary change on Cambooya Shire Council is against the wishes of the affected community.*

*For more information go to the Local Democracy website:*

*<http://www.localdemocracy.com.au>*

*The “Yes” Case:*

*Why Queensland’s local government needs reform?*

- Queensland is Australia’s fastest growing State. Over the past 50 years Queensland’s population has almost tripled to more than 4 million.*
- Queensland’s current system of local government was established more than 100 years ago. This system has never undergone large-scale modernisation.*
- In 2005 the Local Government Association of Queensland instigated a reform of local government, seeking partnership from the State.*
- 118 councils agreed to investigate their long-term future, through the Size, Shape and Sustainability (SSS) initiative, however the program has failed to deliver timely, meaningful reform.*
- The drivers for local government reform include the financial sustainability of councils, the ability of councils to fund essential community infrastructure and the need for a regional approach to planning and service delivery.*
- A Queensland Treasury Corporation analysis shows a number of assessed councils involved in SSS are rated as having a ‘weak’ or worse, financial outlook.*
- Queensland has 88 councils with populations less than 5000, as compared to 26 in New South Wales and two councils in Victoria.*
- Queensland is the last State or Territory in Australia to commence whole-of-State reform of its local government system.*
- For more information go to the State Government (Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation) website:*

<http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=4461> ”; and

4. Resolves to include an amount of \$10,000 in the 2007/08 Budget to fund the taking of the Poll

**Carried**

**3. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the Meeting at 9:45am.

Council at the Ordinary Meeting held on 18 July 2007 confirmed these minutes.

Certified Correct ..... **MAYOR**